



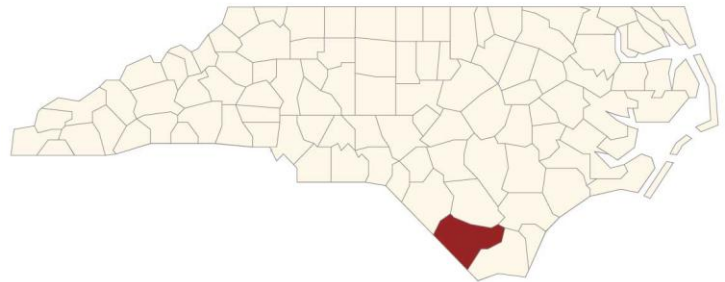
On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama. ARRA provides increased support to several existing federal programs administered by states, creates new programs such as the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, and offers opportunities for states to apply for competitive grant programs.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's significant investment in North Carolina totaled almost \$19.5 billion, including assistance for those needing help the most through increases in unemployment benefits, Medicaid payments, and food stamps. In addition to those expanded services, ARRA gives hundreds of thousands of working North Carolinians a break through tax credits like the *Making Work Pay* tax credit and the *First Time Homebuyer's* tax credit.

The Recovery Act is not like earlier attempts to revive the nation's economy. It is not only a one-time infusion of federal funds; instead it is a long-term effort to restore economic expansion in the short-term, as well as prepare the nation's economy for stable, healthy long-term growth. Under the terms of the Recovery Act, support for North Carolina's economy will include both investments made directly by the federal government and investments of federal funds that are made under the oversight of the North Carolina state government.

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Report, Columbus County

Columbus County received more than \$98 million in ARRA funding in grants, loans, and bonds. The following report outlines the various funding categories that contributed to the Columbus County total.



**Pell Grant Awards:**  
**1,864**



**Small Business Jobs:**  
**43**

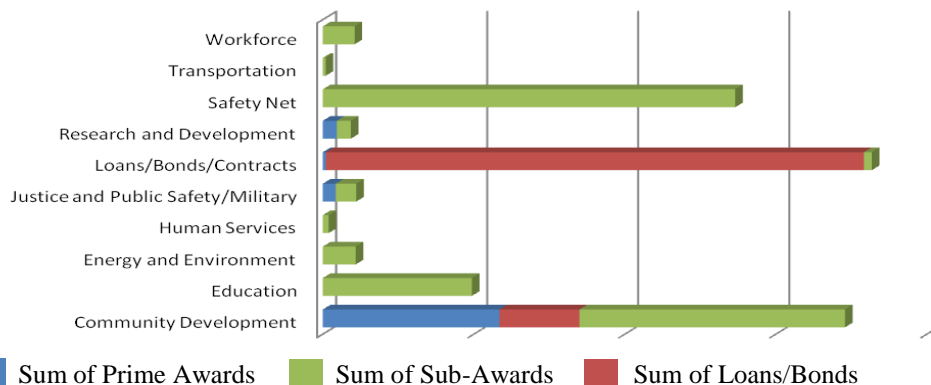


**Appliances rebated:**  
**82**



**Family homes financed:**  
**13**

### Columbus County Totals



**Columbus County,**  
pop 54,749 at a glance:

#### Recovery Act Totals:

Grants: \$57,529,144

Loans: \$8,124,555

Bonds: \$32,800,000

**Total: \$98,453,699**



## Education

The Recovery Act placed a special emphasis on maintaining education funding. Governor Beverly Perdue furthered this commitment by pledging additional recovery funds from the Recovery Act to education, and leading North Carolina to additional funds by winning \$400 million in the Race to the Top program.

Most of the ARRA education funds are distributed to local schools through existing funding formulas. Special Education Funds and Title I funds go to schools based on eligible student enrollment. State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) and the EduJobs grants were designed to hold schools harmless during the recession, and were distributed to public and charter schools. The school systems have spent the majority of the funds on staff and support. Some projects, such as Race to the Top, will be spent for purchasing products and services rather than salaries for staff.

Authorization for low/no interest bonds for school construction/renovation followed the Department of Public Instruction procedures with initial allotments to the school systems. If a school system could not utilize their allotment, it was released to other school systems that could utilize additional allotments.

**Columbus County schools** received \$14.8 million in education funding, including \$2.1 million in Special Education funds, \$2.6 million in Title I funds, \$5.5 million in SFSF funds, \$1.6 million in Race to the Top funding.

Pell Grants are an educational Assistance Program that provides grants to eligible students to receive post-secondary or vocational training. Because Pell Grants are not student loans, they allow students to receive financial assistance to further education and training without incurring additional debt. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act increased the eligibility and the maximum amount of Pell Grants in 2009 and 2010 as a way to encourage educational opportunities, and to provide a way for eligible applicants to gain new job skills.

**In Columbus County,** Southeastern Community College had 1,864 students funded by Pell Grants; these grants were worth more than \$14.8 million.



## Family Assistance

The Federal Department of Agriculture increased funding to their Single-Family home program with the ARRA. These resources assisted families in achieving the American Dream of home ownership through direct financial assistance (grants) or credit (loan guarantees). This program pumped more than \$729 million into North Carolina, providing assistance to more than 5,400 families.

**In Columbus County,** 13 families received assistance through this program totaling more than \$1.5 million.

The Department of Energy created the Energy Star Appliance rebate program to help stimulate the economy by incentivizing the purchase of new, more energy efficient appliances, and helping consumers by providing long-term

savings from their utility bills. The State Energy Office in the North Carolina Department of Commerce managed the program insuring North Carolina residents and retailers received the maximum benefit from this opportunity. North Carolina retailers sold more than 25,500 new energy efficiency appliances through this program, and North Carolina residents will enjoy energy savings for years to come. The program was so successful, that the State Energy Office reprogrammed additional funding to provide discounts to everyone participating in the program, bringing the total program value from \$8 up to \$10 Million.

**Columbus County** retailers sold 82 appliances through the Energy Star Appliance rebate program.



## Small Business Assistance

The ARRA provided tax breaks, increased depreciation of business assets, and incentives for hiring for small businesses through the tax law changes found in Part B of the Act. The Recovery Act also established direct aid programs through the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA). These programs provided grants, loans and loan guarantees to grant small businesses access to much-needed operational credit during 2009 and 2010.

**In Columbus County** 4 small businesses received SBA loan guarantees worth almost \$1.3 million. According to the small businesses receiving these loans, the Recovery Act saved or created 43 jobs. Additionally, the USDA Business and Industry Program provided 1 loan to a small business, worth \$450,000 dollars that saved or created 22 jobs.



## Farm Assistance

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program is administered by the Farm Services Administration in the federal Department of Agriculture, which provides assistance to farmers suffering crop losses due to natural disasters. To qualify for the program a farm must have lost at least 10% of one crop during a natural disaster in a declared disaster county, or lost 50% of a crop during a disaster in a non-disaster county. North Carolina farmers received more than \$9 million in total payments under the ARRA-Funded SURE Program.

**In Columbus County**, \$678,991 was received in assistance to farmers because of crop loss to natural disasters.



## CARS Program

The Car Allowance Rebate Program (CARS), more widely known as the 'Cash-for-Clunkers' program, provided an incentive for drivers of older, energy inefficient vehicles to upgrade to new cars. This program also provided a large economic impact in North Carolina, and North Carolina dealers received more than 18,000 trade-in vehicles through this

program. North Carolina Car Dealers sold more than \$400,000,000 worth of new cars (recommended MSRP) through the CARS program. North Carolina drivers will save 172,130 miles per gallon through cars purchased through this program.

**In Columbus County**, car dealers sold 38 cars worth almost \$1 million through the ARRA CARS program.



## Justice and Public Safety Programs

ARRA increased funding to the federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grants Program (JAG). JAG funds were awarded both as a formula allocation to the State, for \$34.5 million, and grants distributed by the Governor's Crime Commission to various local governments and entities. In addition, \$21,853,798 went to 216 local governments across the state for various purposes in line with the requirements of the act. Finally, there is a federal competitive portion that was open to state or local government applicants.

The COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) awards grants to law enforcement agencies to hire and train community policing professionals, acquire and deploy cutting-edge crime-fighting technologies, and develop and test innovative policing strategies. COPS funding also provides training and technical assistance to community members and local government leaders and all levels of law. In order to help leverage the efficiency of these programs Governor Perdue set aside additional funding to help pay for uniforms and equipment for local governments who have new COPS funded positions.

**In Columbus County**, the Town of Chadbourn had 1 officer funded through COPS Grants. In addition, the Governor's Crime Commission gave the Town of Chadbourn a grant of \$4,000 to help outfit and equip this new officer.



## Broadband Programs

The Recovery Act funded two dedicated high-speed broadband programs, the USDA's Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP), and the US Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The BIP focused on the creation of new service or the expansion of existing services in rural areas, while the BTOP focused on statewide or regional development of important broadband infrastructure.

**In Columbus County**, Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation received a BIP grant for \$11.2 million.



## Environment and Natural Resources Programs

ARRA funded several programs to protect the environment, or to develop natural resources more efficiently. These programs ranged from environmental clean-up, such as leaking underground storage tank abatement and Brownfields programs, to EPA clean air grants, wildfire prevention grants, and revolving funds to build, expand, or overhaul existing water and sewer programs. These programs provided nearly \$150 million across North Carolina.

**In Columbus County,** The Town of Columbus and the Town of Chadbourn received \$1 million for water and sewer projects.



## Green Energy Programs

One of the goals of ARRA was to provide grants to help conserve energy and assist in the development of a green economy. The State Energy Office in the North Carolina Department of Commerce received large grants for energy conservation under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These grants include the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), funded at just under \$20 million, and the State Energy Plan (SEP), funded at \$70 million. The State Energy Office then used these grants to make awards to businesses, non-profits, and local governments for various purposes.

**In Columbus County,** the Columbus County Government received an EECBG grant worth \$544,500 to install landfill gas generators to produce electricity and to develop on-site greenhouses to use waste heat from the generators. Tabor City received an EECBG grant worth \$200,000 for the installation of energy efficient motors at the waste water treatment plant.



## Military Programs

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included approximately \$7.4 billion in defense-related appropriations. This includes funding for all service areas and the Army Corps of Engineers. Recovery Act funding addressed some of the unique economic pressures faced by American service members because of their voluntary commitment to serve our nation. The Recovery Act included assistance to service members, upgrades aimed to improve the quality of life for troops and their families, funded three new facilities, and two new VA hospitals in North Carolina, addressing critical needs across the state. In addition to providing much needed facility improvements, this bill also provides more funding for our energy research programs, so that Department of Defense (DOD) can continue to lead the way in the national

effort to achieve greater energy independence. North Carolina had 103 military projects funded for a total of \$166 million.

**In Columbus County,** the Army Corps of Engineers contracted for \$150,000 in improvements to Wilmington Harbor.



## Safety Net Programs

Safety net programs are the category of ARRA funding that consists of programs designed to help populations made particularly vulnerable by the economic crisis. These generally include increases in existing programs, most notably the increase in both benefit level and duration of unemployment payments. Increases in the amount and duration of unemployment payments makes up the largest chunk of safety net programs funded through the Recovery Act, totaling more than \$3.5 billion statewide over more than two years. Safety net programs such as unemployment insurance and SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps), not only benefit the recipient, but have a proven economic impact on a community.

**Columbus County** residents received more than \$19.0 million in Unemployment Insurance increases during the 2 ½ year ARRA benefits increase. County residents also received \$4.7 million in SNAP benefit increases, and \$3.5 million in one-time payments of \$250 to social security recipients.

## Columbus County Feature Story

### Columbus County Improves Access to Quality Healthcare

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided \$2 billion to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to investment in Community Health Centers nationwide. This was an unprecedented opportunity to serve more patients, stimulate new jobs, and meet the significant increase in demand for primary health care services among the nation's uninsured and underserved populations. The Recovery funds were used in 2009-10 to support critically needed health care services, renovations repairs, and investments in health information technology in Community Health Centers.



Along with 26 other North Carolina Community Health Centers, Columbus County Community Health Services received Recovery funds through the Office of Rural Health and Community Care to meet an increased demand for services during the economic downturn and to make capital improvements to its clinic.

Columbus County Community Health Services received ARRA funding from two different programs: The Increased Demand for Service Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund.



#### Columbus Regional Health Center Building

Columbus County Community Health Services received a \$333,608 grant from the Increased Demand for Service Fund. This grant supported a medical provider for two years. The funds directly enabled the medical practice to retain their only provider, a bilingual physician, who served more than 400 patients per month. The funds indirectly enabled the practice to retain 6 support staff, and hire an additional mid-level provider, who served an additional 200 patients per month.

Columbus County received \$400,000 for capital improvements to renovate their medical facility, directly enabling the medical practice to move to a larger medical facility in a prime location in Whiteville, NC. This provides patients with unlimited parking, up from the previous facilities' 15 spaces, and provided space for increased visits from 600 patients to up to 1,000 patients.

## Appendix, Columbus County breakout

Federal Agency	Program Title	Recipient name	Recipient role <sup>i</sup>	Prime Amount <sup>ii</sup>	Unique Sub Awards <sup>iii</sup>	Loans	Additional Economic Activity (not counted toward totals) <sup>iv</sup>
	Bonds		P			\$32,800,000.00	
	Cash for Clunkers		S		\$162,500.00		
	Federal Pell Grant Program	Southeastern Community College	P				
	Very Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans - Guaranteed	Individuals	L			\$1,503,040.00	
<b>Administration for Children and Families</b>	ARRA - Child Care and Development Block Grant	Columbus, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$360,150.70	\$0.00	
<b>Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing</b>	Native American Housing Block Grants (Formula) Recovery Act Funded	Waccamaw Siouan Indian Tribe, Inc.	P	\$125,645.00		\$0.00	\$125,645.00
<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</b>	ARRA - Immunization	Columbus, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$26,279.00	\$0.00	
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	Business and Industry Loans	Various	L		\$450,000.00		
	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Multiple Individuals	S		\$4,744,025.95		
<b>Department of Energy</b>	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)	Bolton, Town Of	S	\$0.00	\$56,766.00	\$0.00	
		Columbus, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$622,165.00	\$0.00	
		Tabor City, City Of	S	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	
<b>Department of Health and Human Services</b>	Aging Congregate Nutrition Services for States	Columbus County Department On Aging	SV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Aging Home-Delivered Nutrition Services for States	Columbus County Department On Aging	SV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>	Public Housing Capital Fund Formula (Recovery Act Funded)	Whiteville Housing Authority	P	\$117,634.00		\$0.00	\$117,634.00



<b>Department of Justice</b>	No CFDA for Contract type awards	Chadbourn, Town of	P	\$123,158.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
	Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Grants	Chadbourn, Town of	P	\$123,158.00		\$0.00	\$123,158.00
	Recovery Act - Assistance to Rural Law Enforcement to Combat Crime and Drugs Competitive Grant Program	Bolton, Town Of	P	\$600,000.00		\$0.00	\$600,000.00
	Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program / Grants To Units Of Local Government	Columbus, County Of	P	\$95,884.00		\$0.00	\$95,884.00
		Whiteville, City Of	P	\$37,413.00		\$0.00	\$37,413.00
	Recovery Act - Eward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program/ Grants to States and Territories	Chadbourn, Town of	S	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	
		Columbus, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$161,306.07	\$0.00	
				\$0.00	\$161,306.07	\$0.00	
	Violence Against Women Formula Grants	Columbus, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$170,521.02	\$0.00	
<b>Department of Labor</b>	Unemployment Insurance	Multiple Individuals	S		\$19,046,164.78		
<b>Environmental Protection Agency</b>	Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds	Chadbourn, Town of	S	\$0.00	\$959,555.00	\$0.00	
		Columbus Utilities	SV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
		Columbus, Town Of	S	\$0.00	\$160,162.00	\$0.00	
<b>Federal Transit Administration</b>	Formula Grants for Other Than Urbanized Areas	Columbus, County Of	S	\$0.00	\$189,653.00	\$0.00	
<b>Food and Nutrition Service</b>	Child Nutrition Discretionary Grants Limited Availability	Columbus County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$25,667.61	\$0.00	
<b>Health Resources and</b>	ARRA - Grants to Health	Columbus County Community Health	S	\$0.00	\$332,323.00	\$0.00	

<b>Services Administration</b>	Center Programs					
				\$0.00	\$400,000.00	\$0.00
		Health & Human Services, North Carolina Department Of	P	\$333,608.00		\$0.00
				\$586,105.00		\$39,000.00
		Henry Schein, Inc.	SV	\$0.00		\$2,235.96
		Son Information Systems	SV	\$0.00		\$10,000.00
		Vecinos Inc	S	\$0.00		\$147,105.00
<b>Idaho Operations Office</b>	Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program (EEARP)		P			\$10,200.00
<b>Office of Elementary and Secondary Education</b>	Education Technology State Grants, Recovery Act	Columbus County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$41,518.00	\$0.00
	State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) - Education State Grants, Recovery Act	Columbus County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$3,835,523.00	\$0.00
		Southeastern Community College	S	\$0.00	\$466,689.12	\$0.00
		Whiteville City School District	S	\$0.00	\$1,218,190.00	\$0.00
	State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) - Race-to-the-Top Incentive Grants, Recovery Act	Columbus County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$1,097,587.00	\$0.00
		Whiteville City School District	S	\$0.00	\$506,662.00	\$0.00
	Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies, Recovery Act	Columbus County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$1,765,588.00	\$0.00
		Whiteville City School District	S	\$0.00	\$852,263.00	\$0.00
<b>Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services</b>	Special Education - Preschool Grants, Recovery Act	Columbus County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$59,467.00	\$0.00
	Special Education Grants to States, Recovery Act	Columbus County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$1,515,959.64	\$0.00
		Whiteville City School District	S	\$0.00	\$584,125.00	\$0.00
<b>Rural Housing Service</b>	Community Facilities Loans		P	\$98,700.00		\$98,700.00

		and Grants				
		Sandyfield, Town Of	P	\$0.00	\$346,490.00	\$346,490.00
				\$61,140.00	\$0.00	\$61,140.00
		Whiteville, City Of	P	\$0.00	\$156,000.00	\$0.00
				\$84,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Rural Utilities Service</b>	Broadband Initiatives Program	Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation	P	\$11,202,393.00	\$0.00	\$11,202,393.00
				\$0.00	\$4,801,025.00	\$4,801,025.00
		Broadband Consulting Group	PV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,800.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
		Byers Engineering Company	PV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$197,243.07
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$84,532.75
		Enhanced Telecommunications , Inc.	PV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,468.13
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,200.63
		Metaswitch Networks	PV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$343,149.10
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$147,063.90
		Nokia Siemens Networks	PV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,356.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,724.00
		The Phoenix Environmental Group, Inc.	PV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,420.17
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,322.93
		Tompkins Land Surveying	PV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,260.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$540.00
<b>Small Business Administration</b>	Loans	Atlantic Automotive Enterprise	L		\$20,000.00	
		Columbus Pediatric Therapy Inc	L		\$20,000.00	
		Lennon & Carroll Enterprises,	L		\$50,000.00	
		Row Flooring Systems LLC	L		\$1,228,000.00	
<b>SSA</b>	Social Security Economic Recovery Act Payments	Multiple Individuals	P	\$3,517,750.00		
<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - civil program financing only</b>	No CFDA for Contract type awards	Pintech Corp	P	\$29,250.00	\$0.00	\$29,250.00
		SEPI Engineering & Construction, Inc.	P	\$51,388.90	\$0.00	
		Tetra Tech, Inc.	S	\$0.00	\$165,802.00	\$0.00
<b>Grand Total</b>				\$13,669,476.90	\$43,859,668.90	\$40,924,555.00
					6	\$18,673,838.64

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<sup>i</sup> Recipient Role are as follows: P is a prime recipient; S is a Sub-recipient; PV is a vendor to a prime recipient; SV is a vendor to a sub-recipient; L is a loan recipient.

<sup>ii</sup> Prime Amounts are unique prime awards within a county. These are entities who have received funding directly from a federal agency, and are required to report directly to [www.federalreporting.gov](http://www.federalreporting.gov)

<sup>iii</sup> Unique Sub Awards are amounts that flow into a county from a source that is NOT directly from a Federal Agency. Generally these are funds awarded to the North Carolina State Government that have been directed to a local source.

<sup>iv</sup> Additional Economic Activity are economic activity attributable to a previous funding category. They may be a sub award by a prime recipient within a county, or a contract funded by one of the previous three columns. This economic activity is not counted toward the county total.